Brunsma, L. David (2004). The School Uniform Movement and What it Tells us

About American Education: A Symbolic Crusade. Catholic Education

16-19 124-127. Retrieved on November 25, 2014 from

<http://web.a.ebscohost.com.uri.idm.oclc.org/ehost/pdfviewer/pdfviewer?si>

d=57070043-c06a-431a-8f78-

41f0be5bd21f%40sessionmgr4004&vid=36&hid=4101

Throughout this article, David Brunsma not only explains that school uniforms can be ineffective, but that they can even have a negative effect on the student body. One reason that is explained is it can create a sort of stereotypical problem that the urban less rich kids are the ones in the uniforms, while the better off financially suburban children do not wear uniforms. When students or members of a community see something similar to this they assume it is because the students that must wear uniforms need them to keep themselves in check wile at school. This then creates a problem that is solely due to a school requiring school uniforms.

This article explains that school uniforms can create a stereotype in a town with private and public schools. I believe this to be true however where I live it is the other way around. From my perspective a student wearing a school uniform represents a rich, well educated student, but a non wearing uniform student may struggle financially or in the classroom. Now of course these are just stereotypes and it depends on the are, but it is clear that school uniforms do lead to assumptions based solely on a students outfit.

Clifford, Stephanie (September 1, 2011). A little Give in the Dress Code. NY times.

Retrieved on November 28, 2014 from

<http://www.nytimes.com/2011/09/02/business/school-dress-codes-letting-a-little-style-slip-in.html?pagewanted=all>

This article from the New York Times discusses how schools are becoming more lenient with school uniforms. As styles and trends change, teenagers tend to try and be cool and fit it, and even with dress codes and uniforms they find a way to bend the rules. Beverly J. Hutton, principal of educational services for Burlington County Institute of Technology, a public high school district in New Jersey stated “They’re teenagers, if you take it all away, you get rebellion”. This is talking about that if you are going to have school uniforms its important to not be so strict and allow a little bit of change here and there. This will keep the students happy, and let them express themselves a little, but still show that there are rules.

I believe this is how all schools should go about their dress code and uniform. There should be a basic outfit that is standard, but bending the rules with a little bit of expression and style should be encouraged. I know it may be hard to allow rule bending and not breaking, but I am a strong believer in self expression based on outfits. This article was helpful for me in researching the negatives of strict uniforms and dress codes.

(June 25, 2013) School Uniforms: Pros and Cons. SF Chronicle. Retrieved on November

28, 2014 from <http://www.sfgate.com/food/bargainbites/2011/map/article/School->

Uniforms-Pros-and-Cons-4619310.php

This article is from the San Francisco Chronicle and it discusses the pros and cons of having school uniforms. The clear cut conclusions that the author of the article came down to are that uniforms are cheaper and easier, but do not let students express themselves. They are cheaper and easier in the fact that students don’t need a whole wardrobe of clothes and do not always have to go through the struggle of picking what to wear. On the other hand the cons are more important. Students all must look the same and cannot express themselves. A dress code is perfectly fine rather than stating exactly what the kids have to wear.

This article matches perfectly with what I believe schools should do. I do not believe in uniforms because they limit individualism in the student body. How a person dresses or looks determines whether or not people socialize with eachother and how a person expresses themself is very important in school. I went to a public school that had a dress code, but no uniform. This then led to me becoming friends with the kind of kids that dressed like me. That is why I do not believe in school uniforms and why I enjoyed reading the cons section of this article.

Zirkel A. Perry. (March 1998) A Uniform Policy. Phi Delta Kappan (Vol 79 Issue 7)

retrieved on November 30, 2014 from

<http://web.a.ebscohost.com.uri.idm.oclc.org/ehost/detail/detail?sid=8fa1cde6-c454-4297-850a-02f39b7cdca9%40sessionmgr4004&vid=19&hid=4101&bdata=JnNpdGU9ZWhvc3QtbGl2ZSZzY29wZT1zaXRl#db=eft&AN=503478782>

This journal although quite old, written in 1998, was still helpful to my research. This author offered another side of the self expression debate with uniforms. It explained that although students complained that school dress codes can take away from self expression, students can find other ways to express themselves. One example was “going beyond the trial court's analysis, the appellate court noted that the dress code provided students with alternative avenues of expression, such as jewelry, buttons, non uniform days, and petitions”. This is a decent argument by a school in Hazelwood.

I found this journal helpful in the fact that it had a good counter argument to the standard self expression and uniform problem. I don’t necessarily agree with this response and I think students need more than jewelry and hairstyles to express themselves, but it is a good mix of both. If a school is going to require skirts and button ups, then any hairstyle, facial hair, and jewelry should be allowed. This I believe is the best of both worlds.

Wilson, Amy Mitchell. Public Dress Codes: The Constitutional Debate. BYU Education

and Law Journal. Retrieved on Novemeber 29, 2014 from

<http://web.a.ebscohost.com.uri.idm.oclc.org/ehost/detail/detail?sid=1c081819-68cd-4387-883f-0f0cbe2be185%40sessionmgr4005&vid=18&hid=4101&bdata=JnNpdGU9ZWhvc3QtbGl2ZSZzY29wZT1zaXRl#db=a9h&AN=682115>

In this journal entry from Brigham Young University the Tinker vs Des Moines Independent Community School District case is discussed. This case is very old but known for several students being suspended for wearing black bands on their arms to protest the Vietnam war. They claimed their first amendment right of expression was violated. This took place a long time ago but still relates to the fact that students should be allowed to express themselves in school.

This journal although old, was still helpful. It showed that even back when school uniforms were just beginning, students took stands that helped shape the future. They showed that its important to be allowed to express your feelings and beliefs with what you wear.